Chapter 12: The Efreet Awakens

THE STORY SO FAR...

Kai was sent to make an ally of Garandoa's princess Doronea, who's said to be gifted with Ambrosia. To avoid being executed as a spy, Kai entered a game of making with the Dwarven king, in which Kai built a steam locomotive by using the revolutionary technology of welding. Then Dhala invaded with an invention of their own – a steam-powered tank. Kai's engine was used to destroy the tank, and now the battle is turning—

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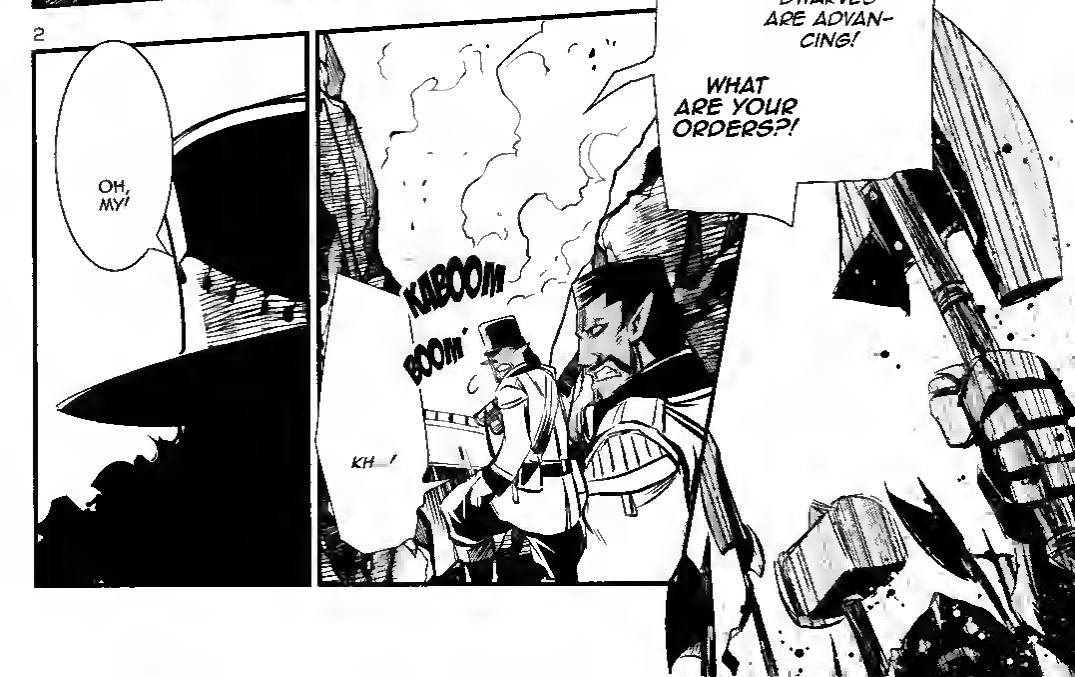


WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT?
THE TANK, INDEED, AND UTTERLY DESTROYED!
JUST AS THE MAN SAID!
D..
DOCTOR VELANTO, I..

YOUR TANK, IT WAS..
THEY DESTROYED IT IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, WE COULDN'T—
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, YOU SAY?
THAT IS QUITE FAST, I MUST ADMIT
QUITE FAST!
BUT THEN IT WAS ONLY A PROTO-TYPE..

IT WAS THAT DAMN MONSTER OF A WAR-TRAIN UP ON THE WALL, DOCTOR!
IT SHOWED UP OUT OF NOWHERE AND—
BOOM
SURELY YOU MUST'VE SEEN IT?
TELL ME, WHEN THEY DESTROYED THE TANK ..
WHAT MANNER OF WEAPON DID THEY USE?

KHOOM

4

SHINK
SSH
OH...

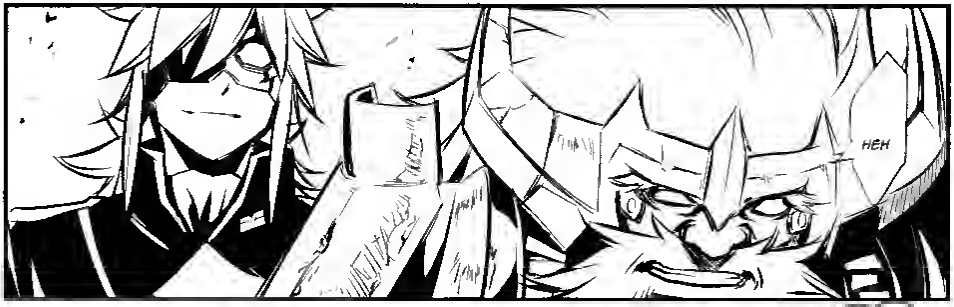
SSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
GUH
GIL GARA...?!
5
DID YOU NOT TELL ME TO STAND BACK AND KNOW MY PLACE?
SO GET IN THERE AND TURN THE TIDE!
THAT...
THAT'S RIGHT!
IT'S YOUR TURN NOW!

DAMN YOU, GIL, I—
I'LL DOUBLE YOUR FEE!
KEEP YOUR GOLD
WHEN GARANDOA'S AMBROSIA IS CAPTURED...
...IT WILL BELONG TO THE HASAS, WITHOUT CONDITIONS OR COMPLAINTS.
THAT IS MY FEE NOW.

6

...TCH!
FINE!
GARANDOA'S AMBROSIA IS YOURS.
SHIZUNA?
LET'S GO.
.. MY LORD HUSBAND!

KABOOM
BOOM
MAJOR GREY..
DO NOT EXPECT MY GRATITUDE
OF COURSE NOT, KING HAVOL.
I APOLOGIZE FOR INTRUDING ON YOUR BATTLE
TODAY IS JUST THE LAST DAY OF OUR GAME.
I MERELY TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW MY WORK.

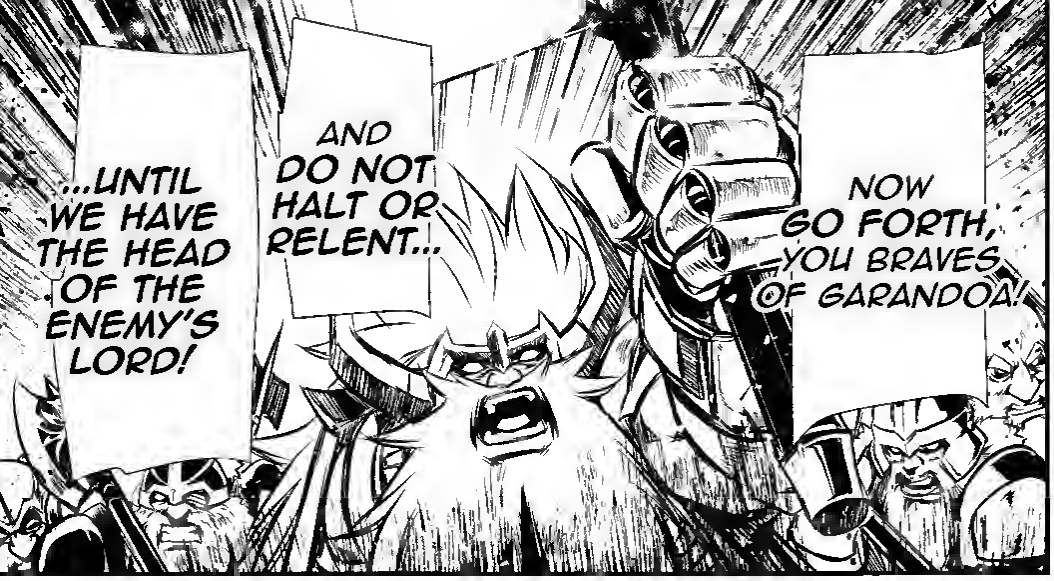

HEH

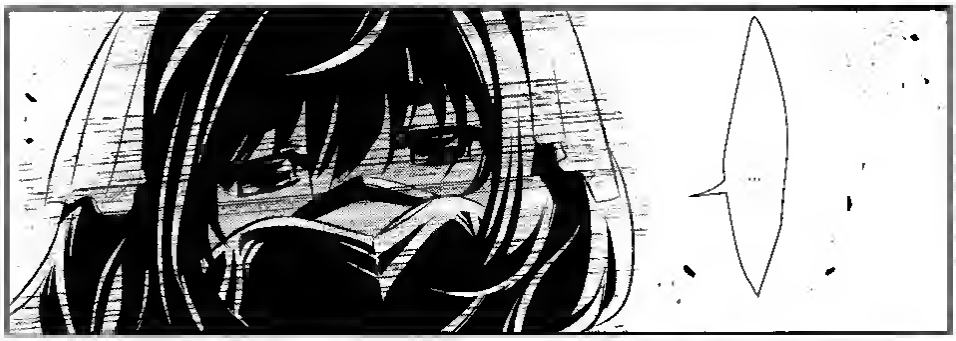
BROTHER..
LET'S MOVE AHEAD!
NO, DORONEA.
YOU ARE STRONG AND SKILLED, BUT YOU WILL STAY HERE.
WHAT?!

AS YOUR KING, IT IS MY DUTY TO LOOK AFTER YOU.
AS YOUR BROTHER, DOUBLY SO.
AND THIS...
...IS NOT A PLACE FOR YOU.
...

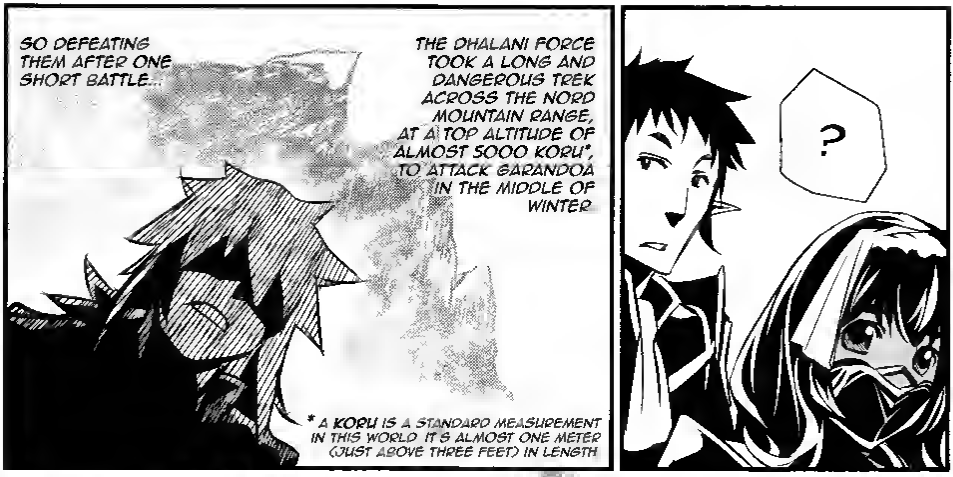
UM...
KING HAVOL, IF I MAY..
YOU MAY NOT!
THIS IS A MATTER BETWEEN A BROTHER AND THE SISTER HE IS BLOOD-SWORN TO PROTECT.

I HEAR AND OBEY!
AND AS TRADITION DEMANDS...
...YOU WILL HEAR ME AND OBEY.
AND TO DO SO, I NOW COMMAND YOU TO STAY HERE, OUT OF HARM'S WAY


NOW GO FORTH, YOU BRAVES OF GARANDOA!
AND DO NOT HALT OR RELENT...
...UNTIL WE HAVE THE HEAD OF THE ENEMY'S LORD!


...

...
NO...
NO, THIS IS TOO EASY...
AM I RIGHT, MAJOR?
AND THERE'S NO NEED FOR PRINCESS DORONEA TO FIGHT.
GOOD THING WE GOT THE WAR-TRAIN HERE IN TIME!
NOW THE DWARVES HAVE RALLIED AND ARE ON THE OFFEN-SIVE...


SO DEFEATING THEM AFTER ONE SHORT BATTLE...
THE DHALANI FORCE TOOK A LONG AND DANGEROUS TREK ACROSS THE NORD MOUNTAIN RANGE, AT A TOP ALTITUDE OF ALMOST 5000 KORU*, TO ATTACK GARANDOA IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER.
* A KORU IS A STANDARD MEASUREMENT IN THIS WORLD. IT'S ALMOST ONE METER (JUST ABOVE THREE FEET) IN LENGTH
?

AND THEY'RE FIGHTING DWARVES...
...SO THEY'VE LOST A LOT OF INFANTRY AS WELL!
I GUESS THEY PUT ALL THEIR FAITH IN THAT TANK THING, AND IT BLEW UP IN THEIR FACES!
I DON'T KNOW.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, ARAN.
BUT...
IT JUST FEELS LIKE IT'S TOO EASY...

SSSSSHH
?!

WHOOOSSH

HUK!
SST
A BLIZZARD?!
WHERE THE—
11
KHH
THUD
CLATTER
WHO'S THAT?!
MMMMMMM

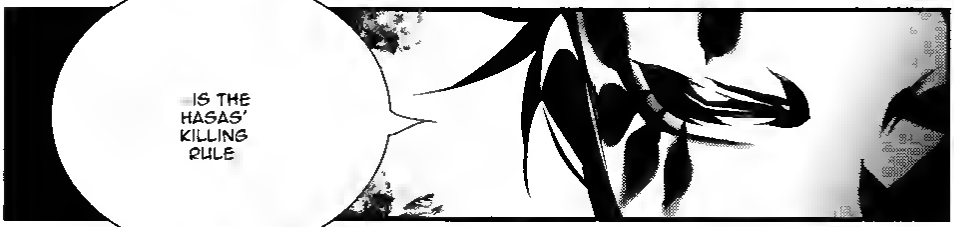
TOF
SLASH

TOF
SNIP
CHUK
TOF

MMMM
MMM
WHAT THE FUCK?!
IT'S HIM!

?!
HASAS?!
AS IN THE ASSAS-SINS?!
A HASAS SELL-SWORD?!

I FIGHT BY CONTRACT.
THAT...
DWARVES...
I HAVE NO GRUDGE WITH YOU, NOR DO I SEEK ONE.


...IS THE HASAS' KILLING RULE

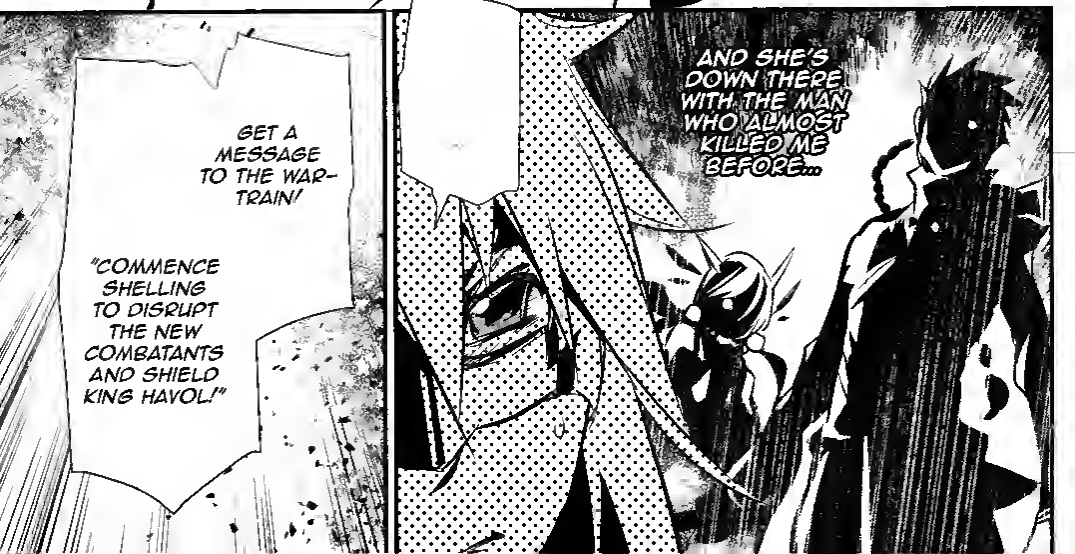
SO—

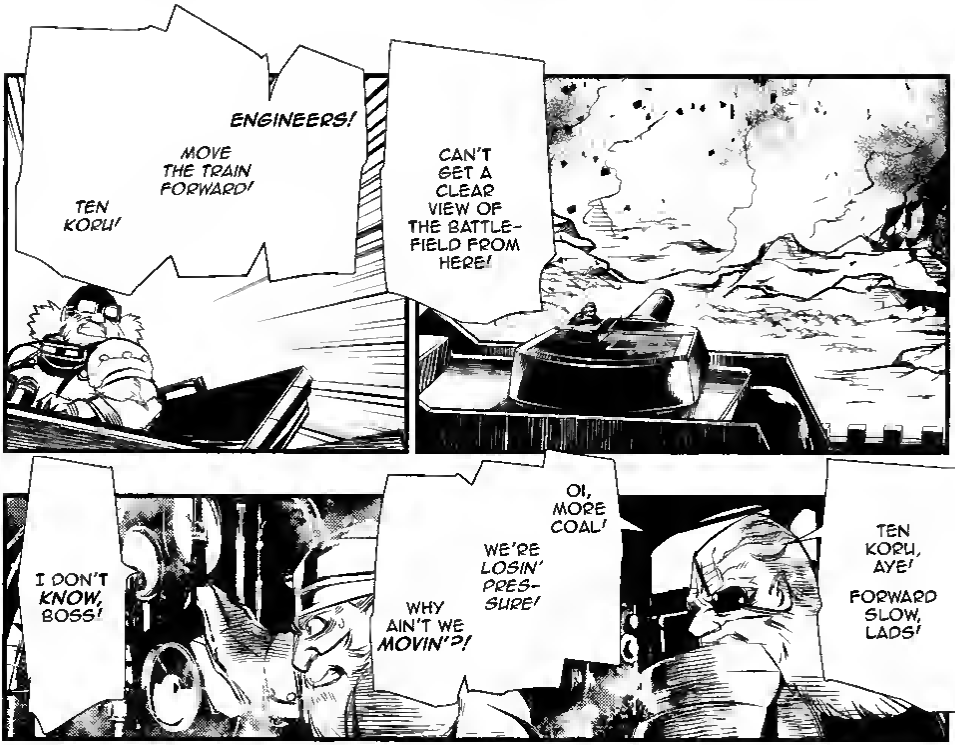
FIRE!
BAM
BLAM
BAM
BAM
NOW!

WOM
PAK
TOK
SSSSS
KRAK
PING

...!!
WHAT'S—
IT'S A GIRL?!
NO, IT'S A WINTER PRINCESS!
A GLACIESS!

GLACIESS?
AMONG THE TRIBES TO THE EAST...
..THEY TALK ABOUT A PEOPLE WHOSE BLOOD IS SO COLD, THEY CAN CONTROL ICE AND SNOW
I DIDN'T THINK THEY WERE REAL, BUT SEEING THIS...
SO RATHER THAN MAGIC...
...SHE CAN MANIPULATE COLD AS I AN INNATE CHARACTERISTIC.
SHE'S LIKE A YUKI-ONNA*!
* YUKI-ONNA = "SNOW WOMAN", SPIRIT IN JAPANESE FOLKLORE

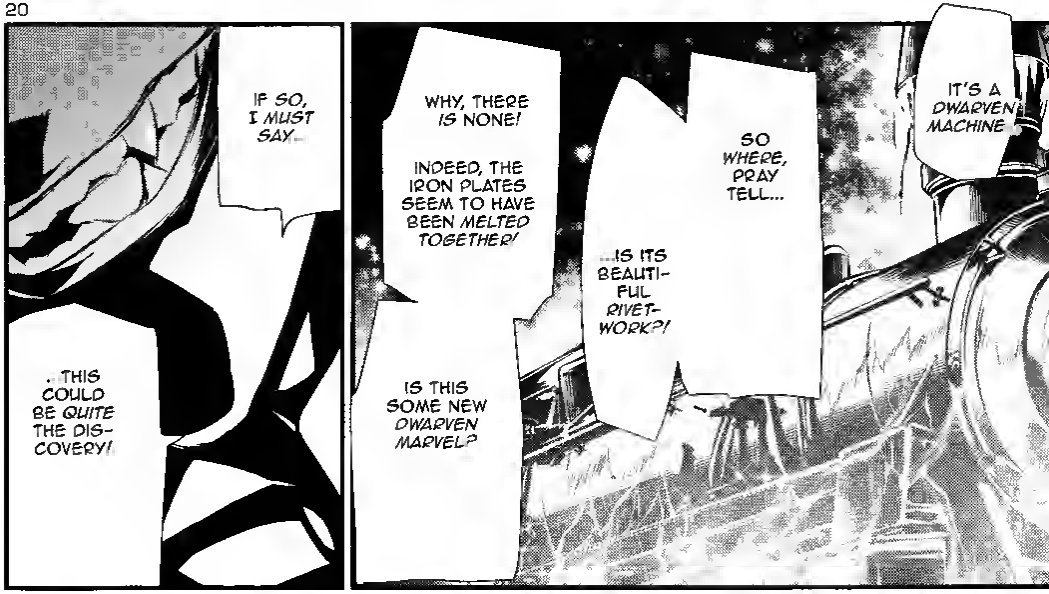

AND SHE'S DOWN THERE WITH THE MAN WHO ALMOST KILLED ME BEFORE...
GET A MESSAGE TO THE WAR-TRAIN!
"COMMENCE SHELLING TO DISRUPT THE NEW COMBATANTS AND SHIELD KING HAVOL!"

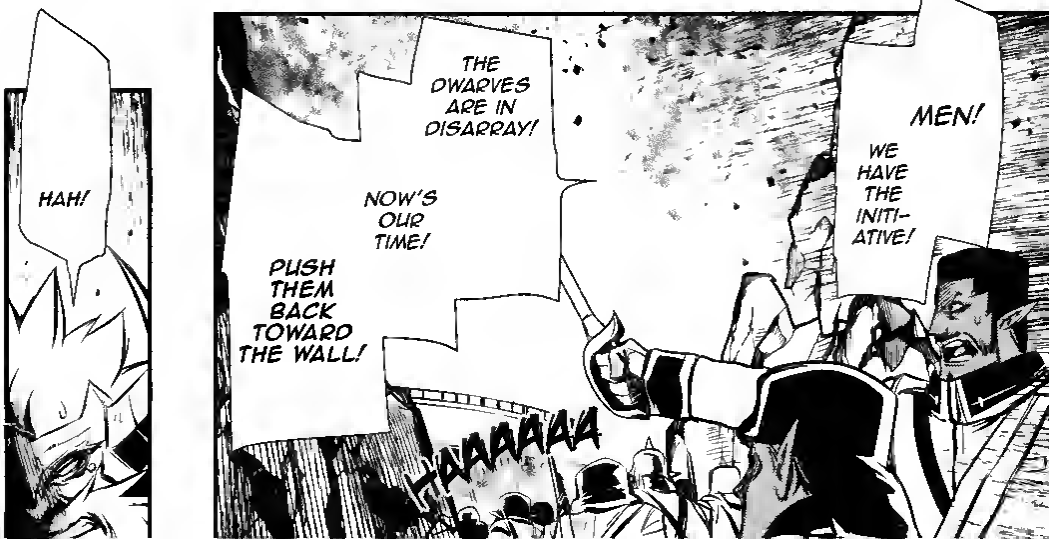

ENGINEERS!
MOVE THE TRAIN FORWARD!
TEN KORU!
CAN'T GET A CLEAR VIEW OF THE BATTLE-FIELD FROM HERE!
I DON'T KNOW, BOSS!
WHY AIN'T WE MOVIN'?!
WE'RE LOSIN' PRES-SURE!
OI, MORE COAL!
TEN KORU, AYE!
FORWARD SLOW, LADS!

WHOOOSH
IT'S THE TEMPERATURE...
IT'S DROPPING LIKE A ROCK!
..o
SAY WHAT?!

IT'S FROZEN!
PSSH
PSS
SSS
THE ENGINE...!
KRONK
CREAAAK
SHE'S DRAWING ALL THE HEAT OUT OF IT!

HO HO!
ALWAYS INTERESTING TO SEE ONE OF THE ICE FOLK AT WORK!
HOW-EVER...
RIGHT NOW, SHE'S BEING UP-STAGED BY THAT LOCO-MOTIVE!


IT'S A DWARVEN MACHINE
SO WHERE, PRAY TELL...
...IS ITS BEAUTI-FUL RIVET-WORK?!
WHY, THERE IS NONE!
INDEED, THE IRON PLATES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN MELTED TOGETHER!
IS THIS SOME NEW DWARVEN MARVEL?
IF SO, I MUST SAY...
. THIS COULD BE QUITE THE DIS-COVERY!


MEN!
WE HAVE THE INITI-ATIVE!
THE DWARVES ARE IN DISARRAY!
NOW'S OUR TIME!
PUSH THEM BACK TOWARD THE WALL!
AAAAAAA
HAH!

YOU THINK DWARVES WILL BE HERDED LIKE SHEEP?!
HRAAH!!
BROTHER!
HE'S GONE CRAZY!
YOUR PISS-WEAK TRICKERY WILL NOT STOP ME!
WOMM

KRSSH
RAAAH!!
THOOM

...IT MUST BE *SOLID MITHRIL!*
BUT THIS SWORD IS MADE OF *ORICHALCUM*...
...AND IT OUTSHINES EVEN THE TREASURES OF THE DWARVES!
GRIP
IF IT CAN BREAK SHIZUNA'S STRONGEST ICE...
THAT HAMMER...

CLANG
IT'S WEAKE-NING!
CAN-NONS!
THE WALL, WEST OF THE MID-MOST TURRET!
NOW!
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
CRACKLE
CLINK
THOK
CRACK
THUNK
THUNK

FOOL!
...!!
THE WALL!
BOOM
KRRIWIBLL
24
LOOK PAST ME...
DASH
...AND YOU WILL DIE!
KHAH...!
...AND YOU WILL SUFFER...

KIANG
25
DORONEA?!
I TOLD YOU TO STAY BACK!
ARE YOU DEFYING YOUR BROTHER AND KING?!
KRIK
KRRK!

!!
BROTHER...
I AM!

YOU HAVE GUIDED ME...
...FAR AND WELL!

...WILL BE...
CLENCH
AND THE PATH I TAKE...
I CAN STAND ALONE!
BUT NOW...
IT'S UP...
...TO ME!

SMASH
...MY OWN!
DORO-NEA..!
A FEMALE DWARF?!
AND DORONEA IS YOUR NAME.
THEN WOULD I BE WRONG TO PRESUME YOU HAVE THE AMBROSIA?
...?!

I'M HERE...
...HUSBAND!
WOMM
SHIZUNA?
HOW FORTUNATE THAT WE MEET ALREADY!
YOUR POWER HAS BEEN PROMISED TO THE HASAS.
BAM
BADAM
BLAM
FIRE!
KRAK
TOK
PAK
krak
krak
zip

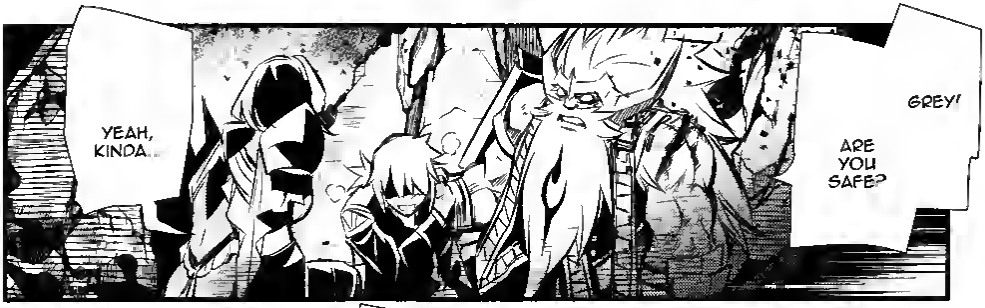
MAJOR GREY..!
RIFLEMEN, KEEP PRESSURE ON THE GIRL!
WE'LL DEAL WITH THE HASAS!

GREY?
MAJOR GREY?
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME YOU ARE HIM?
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU HEARD ME!
I AM GREY ENFIELD OF ALBION...
...MAJOR IN THE LEMURIAN COMPANY!
ARE YOU, NOW?
BECAUSE I THINK NOT...
...AND I THINK I'LL TAKE OFF THAT MASK!

DO NOT LOOK PAST ME, FOOL!
BOOM
KUH!
SPANG
CLANG
TANNG
CLASH
30
BEHIND YOU!
!!
CLICK
JESUS CHRIST!
HE'S TAKING ON HAVOL AND DORONEA AT THE SAME TIME!

BAM
SHOVE
GREY?!
BLAM
MAJOR?!
THUD
I'M..
I'M OKAY!
IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS!
GOOD THING I SAW HIM!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT HURT—
PRIN-CESS!
...

BAM
BLAM
BLAM
BAM
SPAK
KRAK
PEHHH
GET HIM!
KEEP AT IT!


YEAH, KINDA...
GREY! ARE YOU SAFE?

THEY'RE THROUGH!
THE LAST WALL HAS BEEN BREACHED!
BRRRMMMM
NO!

CLATTER
THUD
CLONK
DORONEA?!
WHAT ARE YOU—
THIS POWER I HAVE...
IT IS TIME TO USE IT.
IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE NOW.
GREY?!
BUT THAT MAN ISN'T EVEN YOUR

HRRMM?
VERY WELL!
IF THIS CHOICE IS OF YOUR OWN WILL...
...THEN I AM AT PEACE.
THANK YOU, BROTHER...
34
AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE THE AMBROSIA IN ME
I'VE HEARD IT SAID THAT IF I GIVE IT TO SOMEONE...
...HE MAY BE DRIVEN MAD...
MAJOR GREY, I AM ASKING MUCH OF YOU..
BUT WILL YOU TAKE THE RISK AND LET ME GIVE YOU THIS POWER?
BUT HE WILL ALSO BE GIVEN THE MIGHT OF THE GODS!

EFREET...
nod
SPIRIT OF THE DWARVES, LORD OF FIRE AND CREATION THAT RESIDES IN MY HEART...
AS THIS MAN TAKES OF ME...
...FLOW INTO HIM AND AWAKEN!

MAJOR GREY, I BEG OF YOU
AND SO HOT IT BURNS!
SP!
AH...! SWEET...
HAH—
AAAH!
PLEASE SAVE US!
SAVE OUR KINGDOM!

WHOOM
stagger
crackle
...!!
spark

FRSH
SST
SSH
FFT
NO!
THIS FIRE!
I HAVE TO—
WOOM

HAAH!

TRSSSHH
PHOOM
KSH
KSH
KRSH
BOOM
WHOOM

SHIZUNA!
BAM
IT'S...
IT'S A MONSTER!
BAM
BLAM
BAM
FIRE!
FIRE!
DO NOT STOP!
SST
PSS
TSS
BRRRRRMMMMM

SSSSSHHH
INCREDI-BLE.
THAT'S...
DID I GIVE HIM THAT..?!
WHAT
H-HOW..?
HO HO!
A GOD-CURSE, WAS IT?

MOST GRAND, I MUST SAY!
MOST GRAND!
DOCTOR, WILL YOU STOP ADMIRING OUR DESTRUCTION?!
WE'RE BEING DEFEATED HERE!
THIS FUCKING MONSTER OF THEIRS...
I'VE GOT NOTHING THAT CAN TAKE IT!
OH, I KNOW, I KNOW!
OUR CAUSE IS DOOMED, VERY MUCH SO!
OUR OBJECTIVE IS QUITE LOST!
SO I THINK WE'LL JUST INFLICT MAXIMUM DAMAGE AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
?!

AM I TALKING ABOUT MY CHEMICAL WEAPON?
squeak
DAMAGE?
DOCTOR VELANTO, ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...

HERE WE HAVE THE PERFECT TIME AND PLACE!
...AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO USE IT.
I'M TALKING ABOUT MY POISON GAS!
WHY, YES I AM!
BUT ON OUR SIDE WE HAVE SCIENCE AND REASON!
BECAUSE A SPIRIT NOW HAUNTS THIS MERRY BATTLEFIELD; A CHALLENGE SENT BY THE GODS!
THE TIME HAS COME TO SET OLD AGAINST NEW AND SEE WHO'S THE STRONGER!
WILL THEY BE ENOUGH TO CAST THE SPIRIT OUT?

神咒のネクター

SHINJU NO NECTAR
NECTAR OF DHARANI

NEXT:
CHAPTER 13

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